received from an hon'ble Member of Parliament during the last one year till date.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) According to Government instructions governing compassionate appointments, applicants for compassionate appointments should be appointed only if they are eligible and suitable for the post in all respects under the provisions of the Rules. Hence, even where an applicant is eligible to be appointed as a Clerk, but not suitable for the same, he can be offered only a lower level post for which he is suitable. Such offers of compassionate appointments do not amount to any irregularity for which an enquiry is called for.

Privatisation of coal mines

*80. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for privatisation of coal mines in the country as a measure to attract greater investment in the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have noted that the projections of coal production and of coal demand show that there will be a substantial gap towards the end of the 9th Plan which will increase during the 10th Plan period. This gap will remain even though the investment in the 9th Plan will be more than double the investment in the 8th Plan. In 1993 the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended to permit companies engaged in business of steel production, power generation and other end uses to mine coal. In view of the anticipated gap the Government are contemplating to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in order to enable any Indian Company to mine coal, so that investment in mining coal may increase to facilitate increased production.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

कोल इंडिया लि० में कार्यरत महिलाएं

466. **श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह कल्याण:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कोल इंडिया लि० के अधीन समस्त कंपनियों में कार्यरत महिलाओं की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) उक्त सभी कोयला कंपनियों में कार्यरत महिलाओं की मजदूरी या वेतन के तौर पर कितनी धनराशि दी जाती है; और

(ग) सरकार ने कोल इंडिया लि० में कार्यरत महिलाओं की स्थिति में सुधार लाने के लिए कौन-कौन से प्रभावी व ठोस कदम उठाए हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) कोल इंडिया लि० में महिला श्रमिकों की सहायक कंपनी-वार संख्या नीचे दी गई है:—

कंपनी	दिनांक 1.11.1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार
ई०को०लि०	9,838
भा०को०को०लि०	11,209
से०को०लि०	7,747
वे०को०लि०	3,566
सा०ई०को०लि०	2,969
डी०सी०सी० / सा०ई०को०लि०	21
म०को०लि०	777
ना०को०लि०	384
ना०ई०को० / को०ई०लि०	301
के०खा०आ०डि०स०लि०	140
को०ई०लि० (मुख्या०)	174
जोड़:	37,126

(ख) को०ई०लि० में महिला श्रमिकों सहित सभी कर्मचारियों को वेतन/मजदूरी का भुगतान राष्ट्रीय कोयला मजदूरी समझौता-U के अनुसार किया जाता है।